

**2015 Annual Report**  
**South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission**

The Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission hereby files this report with the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility of reviewing possible violations of the code of ethics for teachers. When the Commission determines that cause exists to believe a teacher has violated the code of ethics, the Commission holds a contested case hearing. Ultimately, the Commission may reprimand or recommend a disciplinary action which may be implemented by the appropriate governing body against a member of the teaching profession if the member has been determined by the Commission to have violated the code of ethics established under SDCL 13-43-25 and found in ARSD 24:08:03. If the Commission determines that proceedings to revoke or suspend the certificate of a teacher should be instituted, the Commission files a written complaint with the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education.

During calendar year 2015, the Commission received ten complaints. The Commission met on nine occasions and reviewed two complaints filed in 2014, and ten complaints filed in 2015. The Commission conducted one investigation and held five contested hearings (one hearing was continued and the file remains open) in 2015. Three complaints were dismissed, six complaints were referred to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education for proceedings to revoke or suspend a certificate, and three complaints remain pending at the end of 2015.

Dated: January 14, 2016

  
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Thomas Keck, Chairman  
Professional Teachers Practices & Standards Commission

1/14/2016